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Identical letters dated 12 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to draw your attention to the draft Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016, being circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs of India, which is expected to be introduced soon in the Parliament of India.

Pakistan has serious concerns with regard to the bill, in particular article 6, which states that "no person shall depict, disseminate, publish or distribute any wrong or false topographic information of India, including international boundaries through Internet platforms or online services or in any electronic or physical form". In addition, according to articles 12 to 16 of the bill, the illegal acquisition, dissemination, use and wrong depiction of geospatial information will be punished with heavy fines and imprisonment of up to seven years.

As you are aware, Security Council resolutions 47 (1948), 51 (1948), 80 (1950), 91 (1951) and 122 (1957) and the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949 declared that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. Thus, the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is a United Nations declared and internationally accepted "disputed territory". This position is also reflected in the official maps of the United Nations and Pakistan (see annex).

However, in violation of Security Council resolutions and international law, the official map of India has been depicting the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir as a part of India, which is factually incorrect, legally untenable and morally unacceptable. Sadly, the international community and the United Nations have failed to take notice of this action of India.

Once this law is passed, the Government of India would be able to penalize individuals and organizations who do not depict the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India, which would be contrary to Security Council resolutions.

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The international community should honour its responsibility to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. More than 65 years later, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are still waiting for the international community and the United Nations to fulfil their commitments by holding an independent and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

Failure on the part of the United Nations to ensure the sanctity of its resolutions has resulted in blatant violations of international law, as well as human rights abuses against the Kashmiri people. The Government of India has been using force as State policy, which has been exacerbating the situation. In view of this, the United Nations should intervene to uphold Security Council resolutions and urge India to stop such acts that are in violation of international law.

I would request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council, under the item entitled "The India/Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Maleeha **Lodhi**

Annex to the identical letters dated 12 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council